DIVISION OF RESOURCES AND SUPPORT SERVICES
STATEWIDE STUDENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM NEWSLETTER

JUN 06
Issue 15

Star_Student New Release (V3e): What to Expect With 10g

The upcoming new release of Star_Student (V3e) that will be implemented in Tennessee school districts this summer when we move to the 10g platform, includes a variety of enhanced features and an updated user interface for improved ease of use and secure access. While the V3e release provides for a new look and feel to Star_Student, the basic functionality of the system itself is primarily unchanged. Following are some of the enhancements that you can expect to see in the 2006-07 school year.

Star_Student:
- On screen left side tiered navigation structure that remains visible at all times and displays only the information the user has permission to view or access, similar to the look and navigation of a Web page
- You no longer need to click on 'navigate' first to select menu items
- In many cases, the list of sub-menu items or records now appear in alphabetical order in the menu list
- Minor modifications have been made to a few menu names (i.e. Academic History = History, Grade Reporting = Grading, etc.)
- User lock-out after three failed log-in attempts for increased security, similar to what is currently used in most TN applications
- The ability for the system DBA (Data Base Administrator) to post notifications on the log-in screen to broadcast information to a specific set of users in their district. Note that the DBA is now referred to as Applications Administrator (AA).
- The ability for each school to post notifications to users in their individual schools
- Enhanced color coding features that include a new main color palate (tan, sage and federal blue) and additional visual cues, such as color coding for grades or student specific medical alerts, etc. A color change on the left navigational side alerts you when you have logged into a different school year than your default year.
- The 'Commons' menu list is now referred to as 'Favorites' and functions in much the same way as you designate your 'favorites' on the internet
- To assist with data entry, for example when enrolling new students, mandatory data entry fields are now highlighted
- A new screen set-up allows users to keep multiple pages open and to toggle between pages while keeping their working window visible
- Enhanced search features to enable users to more easily locate teacher, student and class information
- The ability to input data via bar code. **Note**: The ability to use scan sheets is still **not** yet available.
- The 10g upgrade provides the ability to import data at the local level such as test scores, student pictures, school letterhead, etc.
- Ability to save data, reports/lists generated via queries directly to your computer (i.e. save to Excel spreadsheet)
- An Oracle error library will be available on line that provides a more descriptive definition of the errors encountered
- Medical Module includes new hearing, vision, scoliosis, and diabetes record screens, and a new medical posting routine
- MAC users – new platform is Safari capable

Important Note: Windows 98 machines will experience increased difficulty in supporting the new platform.

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Portal:

- GradeBook Portal – changes include a more streamlined screen view, the ability to run the Grade Calculation Routine on the Post Grades screen, post elementary grades (Evaluations) and traits; and when using alpha grades – the option to use the actual gradebook average or the mid-point grade, etc.

To view a brief demonstration (approximately six minutes) of the Star_Student V3e product version for a preview of the new look and feel of the system, go to Century Consultants' *User Only* section on their website at:
http://www.centuryltd.com
Login: tenn   Password: tenn
Click on V3e Tutorial

Server Upgrades

In preparation for the increased load on the servers during the 2006-2007 school year, the hardware to support the database and reports server is being upgraded this summer. The hardware upgrade more than doubles the current capacity of these servers. This upgrade should alleviate many of the problems you experienced during the current school year.

On-Site Star Student Training for Phase III

The second round of on-site training for Phase III districts is well underway with the focus on Attendance, Portal and Grade Reporting. The on-site sessions began in early June and extend into August. Following are the remaining training dates for Phase III districts. For questions about this training, please contact Robert Gilleo at rgilleo@pcgus.com .

Training Date Week of:	Hosting Site	Districts
June 26	Grundy	Grundy
	Morgan	Morgan Oneida
July 10	Blount	Blount
	Sullivan	Sullivan
July 17	Marian	Marian Richard City
	McMinn	McMinn Athens
July 24	Bradley	Bradley Polk
	Decatur	Decatur South Carroll
	Robertson	Robertson
July 31	Campbell	Campbell
	Carter	Carter
	Rutherford	Rutherford
August 7	Rutherford	Rutherford

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Discipline WebEx Training for Phase III: End Users

The next round of training for the Discipline module is geared toward the end user. Those persons (Phase III districts only) who will have direct responsibility for entering, accessing and or reporting discipline information for your schools/district need to participate in the initial Discipline End User WebEx sessions. Follow-up **on-site** end user training sessions will be conducted in the fall.

The initial Discipline End User sessions are available by WebEx and are scheduled to last a maximum of three (3) hours. Phase III districts that have not already done so, should register for one of the following dates:

July 20	August 7
July 21	August 9
July 27	August 15
July 28	August 17
August 4	August 23

Contact ssms.info@state.tn.us if you need information regarding this training.

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